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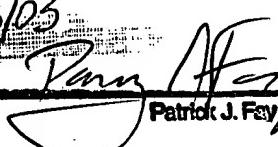
[10121/01601]

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s) : James F. McGuckin Jr.
Serial No. : 09/697,306
Filed : October 27, 2000
Title : SURGICAL APPARATUS AND METHOD
Group Art Unit : 3761
Examiner : G. Dawson

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on

Date: 1/13/03

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Reg. No. 35,508

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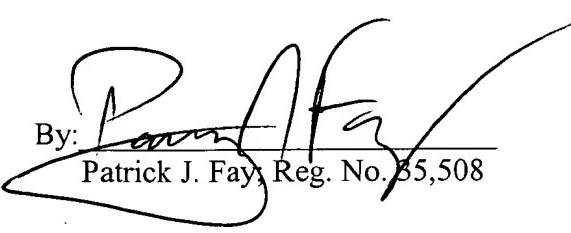
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SIR:

In response to the Office Action mailed October 23, 2002, transmitted herewith please find a Response Under Rule 116 for filing in the above-identified patent.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: January 13, 2003

By: 
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